



Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 018976-154

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Kunihito SETA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1722  
Application No.: 09/470,967 ) Examiner: Heckenberg, Jr.  
Filed: December 23, 1999 )  
For: THERMOPLASTIC RESIN )  
INJECTION MOLDING MACHINE )

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*4/4/02*

**RECEIVED**

APR 02 2002

**TC 1700**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: March 29, 2002

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated  
October 30, 2001 (Paper No. 10). Please amend the above-noted application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Amended) A thermoplastic resin injection molding machine comprising:
- a plasticating unit for plasticating a thermoplastic resin,
- an injecting unit connected to the plasticating unit through a connecting passage, to  
inject the plasticated resin into a mold, and
- a buffering unit provided in said connecting passage to reserve the resin plasticated  
in the plasticating unit in an amount at least equal to the injection quantity of the resin per

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